THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday 10th October 1996 7:15 for 7:45

Hopkinson Room,
University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory,
Pembroke Street, Cambridge

The Feeding Behaviour of Computerised Goblins

Nick Winder

Department of Archaeology,
University of Newcastle

Abstract: This paper concerns a contrived computer simulation in which goblins have to decide whether to hunt babies (tasty but difficult to locate) or gather acorns (foul tasting but nutritious and easy to get). It shows how conditional probabilities can be used to construct a simple world model and then considers a more subtle system in which hunting success may disturb prey. Simple Pavlovian reflexes seem to provide very good predictive success even when predictive success reduces predictability. I will try to explain why.

Speaker: Nick Winder studied the Natural Sciences in the early 1970s before taking employment as a shop assistant, a food microbiologist, a landscape gardener and an airline operations manager. He eventually fetched up at Southampton University where he received an M.Sc. in Archaeological Science and a Ph.D. for work on the study of animal bones from archaeological sites. He worked as a computer officer in the Wessex Field Trial Unit for a year before coming to Cambridge where he worked as an 'archaeometrician' (a term most archaeologists would not recognise) for ten years. He now works in the Archaeology Department of the University of Newcastle where his research interests include the use of mathematical and computer methods to investigate human ecodynamics. [Secretary's note: ... and so this meeting will be Nick's valedictory.]

Annual General Meeting: Nick's talk will be preceded by a brief Annual General Meeting.

Directions: Enter the New Museums site through the arch from Pembroke Street. Turn to the left in front of the building with the brown iron staircase and pass through the passage way by the tree. Enter the lobby which is straight in front of you and find the back entrance to the Computing Service on your left. When inside follow the signs. It is not possible to park on the New Museums site in the evening. The back entrance to the Computing Service will be locked at 7:45.

Next meetings:
4th Nov @IPH - Alistair Young (Statistical Laboratory, Cambridge University) on 'Bootstrapping the Bootstrap'.
2nd December - Tim Drye (Anglia Polytechnic University) 'A Likelihood Model in the Presence of Outliers'.
20th Jan - Chris Gilligan (Plant Sciences) on 'Making Sense of Botanical Epidemics - Where Models Meet Data'.

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6:15. Do feel free to join them.
Subscriptions: are now due for the 1996-7 session.
Secretary: Peter Treasure, Institute of Public Health, University Forvie Site, Robinson Way, Cambridge CB2 2SR; telephone 01223 330356 or 01945 773450; e-mail fpt1@cam.ac.uk

TURN OVER for the Annual General Meeting agenda

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday 10th October 1996 7:15 for 7:45

Hopkinson Room,
University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory,
Pembroke Street, Cambridge

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting will be followed immediately by Nick Winder's talk 'The Feeding Behaviour of Computerised Goblins'.

Agenda:

0. Approval of Minutes of previous A.G.M.

1. Treasurer's Report.

2. Secretary's Report.

3. Election of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, plus 3 other members of the Committee.

4. Any Other Business.

Rules for Election:

1. FRANCISE: All paid-up members may vote or stand for office.

2. NOMINATIONS: The offices to be filled are Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and three other members of the Committee.

   An outgoing Chairman will be a member of the Committee ex officio. At the end of each year the entire Committee will stand down, but may stand again for the same office as they are leaving without nomination. To be elected to a different office a candidate must be nominated by one person from the paid-up membership, not including himself. Nominations do not require a seconder to be valid, but do require the consent of the nominee. One person can be nominated for more than one office, but hold only one. If a person is elected to a higher office (according to the ordering given below) he or she automatically ceases to be a candidate for a lower office. A candidate for the post of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer is automatically a candidate for the Committee if he or she fails to gain election to one of these three posts.

3. VOTING: Voting is in the order Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee, and is by show of hands.

TURN OVER for the directions to the Hopkinson Room and the abstract of Nick's talk

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday 4th November 1996 7:15 for 7:45

The Large Seminar Room, Institute of Public Health,
University Forvie Site, Robinson Way, Cambridge

Bootstrapping the Bootstrap

Alastair Young

Statistical Laboratory,
University of Cambridge

Abstract: The bootstrap is an approach to the assessment of error in statistical procedures. The bootstrap may be applied to itself, with the aim of deriving improved error estimates. Theoretically, successive iterations may be used to produce more and more accurate estimation of error. The only price we pay is a computational one. But what happens in practice? By analysing a series of small datasets we demonstrate both the power and the pitfalls of the iterated bootstrap in action.

Speaker: Alastair Young is a Lecturer in the Statistical Laboratory, University of Cambridge. He is a graduate of Edinburgh University, and obtained both his Diploma in Mathematical Statistics and Ph.D. from Cambridge. He is currently Joint Editor of the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B.

Directions: (From Central Cambridge) Turn right off Hills Road into the Addenbrooke's site then turn left at the hospital roundabout onto Robinson Way. Follow Robinson Way until you see an access road on the left signed 'Forvie Site' (but note that the sign is on your right). Turn into the access road and follow signs - first to the Institute and then to the Large Seminar Room. There is ample car parking. The front doors will be locked at 7:45.

Next meetings:
2nd December - Tim Drye (Anglia Polytechnic University) 'A Likelihood Model in the Presence of Outliers'.
20th Jan - Chris Gilligan (Plant Sciences) on 'Making Sense of Botanical Epidemics - Where Models Meet Data'.
In May the group will visit the Institute of Terrestial Ecology at Monk's Wood.

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6:15. Do feel free to join them.

Subscriptions: are now due for the 1996-7 session.

Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Applied Psychology Unit, 15 Chaucer Rd, Cambridge; telephone 01223 355294 ; e-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday 2nd December 1996 7:15 for 7:45

The Statistical Laboratory,
16 Mill Lane, Cambridge

A Likelihood Model in the Presence of Outliers

Tim Drye

Anglia Polytechnic University,
Cambridge

Abstract: There are many situations where it is unhelpful to use squares methods,.e.g. mean, standard deviation and least squares regression. Situations will be demonstrated where these methods give misleading results and a review given of work done over the years to develop methods which are more appropriate when assumptions of least squares analyses are not met. The talk will be concluded by illustrating a likelihood model which assumes power law tails. This can be shown to be consistent with trimmed least squares estimates. As such they are plausible even when a significant part of the data is extreme.

Speaker: Tim Drye completed his first degree and PhD at Sheffield University where he specialised in statistical physics. In 1990 he moved to the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge before taking a position at Anglia Polytechnic University in 1992. During the current year he has been on sabbatical from teaching in order to establish a statistical consultancy group for business marketing and decision making called DataTalk (Statistical Solutions) Ltd.

Directions: The Statistical Laboratory is part of the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics which is situated on the North side of Mill Lane (right hand side starting from Trumpington Street). Use the West entrance which is reached through the car park guarded by traffic lights; proceed to the seminar room (S27) on the second floor. The outside door is locked but will be attended from 7:15 to 8:00. There is no car parking on site (the Lion Yard multi-storey is nearby).

Next Meetings:
20th Jan - Chris Gilligan (Plant Sciences) on 'Making Sense of Botanical Epidemics - Where Models Meet Data.'
19th Feb - Tim Cole (Dunn Research) on 'Growth Charts for Now and Then.'
11th March - Mark Hill (ITE) on 'Scaling of Ecological Variables - How can it be made more natural?'.
In May the group witll visit the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Monk's Wood.

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.
Subscriptions: are now due for the 1996-7 session.
Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Applied Psychology Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;
telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; e-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday 20th January 1997 7:15 for 7:45

Dalgety Food Technology Centre,
Station Road, Cambridge

Making Sense of Botanical Epidemics - Where Models Meet Data

Chris Gilligan

Department of Plant Sciences,
University of Cambridge

Abstract: Plant disease epidemics occur in heterogeneous and disturbed environments, often with periodic forcing due to seasonal change and pulsed input of inoculum as crops are harvested. Other heterogeneities arise at several scales due to spatial variability in soil and other abiotic properties and to three-species interactions between crops, pathogens and microbial hyperparasites that may be used to control the disease. Chris Gilligan will discuss some recent work from his laboratory on the development and quantitative testing, including parameter estimation of some of the epidemiological models that have addressed problems of parsimony, nonlinearity, spatial and temporal heterogeneity.

Speaker: Chris Gilligan is a Reader in the Department of Plant Sciences and a Fellow of King's College. He came to Cambridge in 1977 as a University Demonstrator to teach pathology, genetics and biometry, after a first degree and D.Phil in biology at Oxford. Following a Lectureship in the Department of Applied Biology, he transferred to the Department of Plant Sciences where he teaches courses in epidemiology and mathematical biology and runs the Botanical Epidemiology and Modelling Laboratory.

Directions: The Dalgety site is on the right hand side of Station Road as you approach the railway station. The meeting is held in Block B; cars may be parked there. The outside door will be locked at 7:45.

Next Meetings:
19th Feb - Tim Cole (MRC Dunn Nutrition) on 'Growth Charts for Now and Then',
12th March - Mark Hill (ITE) on 'Scaling of Ecological Variables - How Can it be Made More Natural?',
22nd April - Andy Cliff (Geography) on 'The Geographical Analysis of Disease Data:The Example of Measles. '
In May the group will visit the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Monk's Wood.

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.
Subscriptions: are now due at £3 per member for the 1996-7 session.
Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Applied Psychology Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;
telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday 19th February 1997 7:15 for 7:45

Medical Research Council Cancer Trials Office,
5 Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge

Growth Charts for Now and Then

Tim Cole

M.R.C. Dunn Nutrition Unit,
Cambridge

Abstract: Growth reference centile charts are used by doctors, nurses and paramedics throughout the world to monitor how well infants and children are growing, so that growth charts play a key role in paediatric practice.
An individual's pattern of growth is assessed in terms of his or her current distribution centile for the measurement (typically weight or height). A paradox of such charts is that they are constructed from cross-sectional data, and contain no information about the variability of growth velocity. This poses two statistical questions: first, how to estimate growth chart centiles from reference data, and second, how to extend the chart to interpret growth over a period of time. Tim will address both questions.

Speaker: Tim Cole is a Senior Scientist at the MRC Dunn Nutrition Centre, where he has been since 1975. Previously he was at the MRC Pneumoconiosis Unit in Cardiff, after degrees at Cambridge, Oxford and Cambridge respectively. His interests are primarily nutritional and/or paediatric, covering many aspects of growth and development.

Directions: Shaftesbury Road is off Brooklands Avenue (on the left if you approach from the railway station end). Number 5 is on the left of Shaftesbury Road; it is the house immediately before the junction with Fitzwilliam Road. There is very little on-site parking but it should be possible to park on the street. Access to the building may be difficult after 7:45.

Next Meetings:
12th March - Mark Hill (ITE) on 'Scaling of Ecological Variables - How Can it be Made More Natural?'
22nd April - Andy Cliff (Geography) on 'The Geographical Analysis of Disease Data:The Example of Measles. '
20th May - Tim Sparks (ITE) and colleagues will give a guided tour of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Monks Wood.
7th October - Tony Johnson (MRC Biostatistics Unit).

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.
Subscriptions: are now due at £3 per member for the 1996-7 session.
Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Applied Psychology Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;
telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday 12th March 1997 7:15 for 7:45

Anglia Polytechnic University,
East Road, Cambridge

Scaling of Ecological Variables - How Can it be Made More Natural?

Mark Hill

Institute of Terrestrial Ecology,
Monks Wood

Abstract: The continuum concept has had a powerful influence on ecology, providing a paradigm by which communities are seen as nature's response to continuous underlying environmental variation. According to G.E. Hutchinson, the ecological niche of a species can be defined as the set of points in environmental space that are suitable for the species. When such niches are studied in more detail, they turn out to have peculiar shapes, not at all the elegant Gaussian surfaces envisaged by theoreticians. Transformations can avoid some of these difficulties, but will never do so completely, because of variation in species-richness. Joint scalings of species and environment have several advantages, and can be used to set up a metric of environmental similarity. Some applications will be given.

Speaker: Mark Hill is a plant ecologist with mathematical tendencies. He read mathematics and logic at Cambridge, statistics at Imperial College and then worked for BP for two years. Following a move to Bangor in 1969, he turned into a plant ecologist and joined ITE. In 1986, he returned to eastern England. Throughout his ecological career he has had a strong interest in multivariate analysis and in floristics, especially of bryophytes. Much of his research time is devoted modelling impacts of climate change and agricultural change.

Directions: The talk will take place in Room 311 of the Rackham Building which is on the right of Broad Street which leads off East Road. Parking for a fee of £1 is accessed from Broad Street and is located to the right of the Rackham Building. Enter the building using the entrance from the car park and turn right. Room 311 is then the second on the right. The outside door will be locked at 7:45.

Next Meetings:
22nd April - Andy Cliff (Geography) on "The Geographical Analysis of Disease Data:The Example of Measles. "
20th May - Tim Sparks (ITE) and colleagues will give a guided tour of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Monks Wood.
7th October - Tony Johnson (MRC Biostatistics Unit) on "Editing a journal - some anecdotes, tales and advice."

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THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 22nd April 1997 7:15 for 7:45

Department of Zoology,
Downing Street, Cambridge

The Geographical Analysis of Disease Data:Measles in the United States, 1962-95

Andy Cliff

Department of Geography,
Cambridge

Abstract: In 1966, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the epidemiological basis existed for the elimination of measles from the United States. In 1996, CDC declared that the United States was measles free, and that all cases arising could be traced to external contacts. This talk illustrates a number of geographical techniques (spatial autocorrelation analysis, disease centroids, multidimensional scaling and spatial interaction models) to show that the spatial transmissionof measles in epidemic episodes in the United States has, at different times in the last 30 years, been driven by spread from larger centres to smaller (hierarchical diffusion) as well as among contiguous geographical units (contagious diffusion). These elements are integrated into a schematic model for the spatial propagation of measles in the US. The talk concludes by asking whether the US really has eliminated indigenous measles.

Speaker: Andrew Cliff is Reader in Theoretical Geography at the University of Cambridge. He has been at the University for 25 years. He has worked extensively on the development of geographical techniques which can be used to determine the space-time corridors of transmission for infectious diseases in human and animal populations.

Directions: Enter the New Museums site through the arch from Pembroke Street. Turn immediately to the right and go straight on. The entrance to the Zoology Department is situated on the right. It is not possible to park on the New Museums site in the evening. The entrance will be locked at 7:45.

Next Meetings:
20th May - Tim Sparks (ITE) and colleagues will give a guided tour of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Monks Wood.
7th October - Tony Johnson (MRC Biostatistics Unit) on "Editing a journal - some anecdotes, tales and advice."

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.
Subscriptions: are now due at 3 pounds per member for the 1996-7 session.
Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Applied Psychology Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;
telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 20th May 1997 7:00 for 7:30
Please note the above earlier start time

Institute of Terrestrial Ecology,
Monks Wood, near Alconbury,
Cambridgeshire

A Tour of Ecological Work of the Institute at Monks Wood

Tim Sparks, Peter Rothery & Colleagues

Institute of Terrestrial Ecology,
Monks Wood

Summary: Weather permitting, we hope to show the group the following: i) an experiment to assess the effects of elevated UVB on plant growth, ii) experiments to estimate the effects of contrasting hedge management on wildlife, iii) a short(ish) walk through the nature reserve with discussion on sampling and monitoring wildlife and iv) experiments to assist in the work of restoring traditional flood meadows. Except in the case of drought, wellingtons or stout shoes are recommended! It is envisaged that the tour will last from 7:30 to approximately 9:00 (sunset).

Background: At 157ha, Monks Wood is the largest wood in Cambridgeshire. The site has had woodland cover for over 900 years and is designated as an ancient woodland. Its nature conservation value led to its designation as a National Nature Reserve in the 1950s. A research station under the Nature Conservancy was established here in the early 1960s. Since restructuring of the Nature Conservancy in 1974 the site has been one of the six locations of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. The station currently supports seven sections: avian biology, biological records centre, ecological processes, environmental management, geographical information systems, pollution and ecotoxicology, and remote sensing. It also hosts external staff working on freshwater ecology and earth science.

Directions: Monks Wood is approximately 25 miles from Cambridge. From Cambridge travel NW on the A14 in the direction of Peterborough. Do not turn off along the A14 at Huntingdon, but continue to travel in the Peterborough direction. Shortly after joining the A1 at Alconbury leave at the first slip road (labelled Household Waste Recycling Centre, Monks Wood). Following signs for Monks Wood, cross the A1 using the flyover and Monks Wood is approximately 1.5 miles east of the A1. There is ample parking on site.
N.B. For security reasons please inform Tim Sparks (ths@wpo.nerc.ac.uk or 01487 773381) by the 16th May if you intend to join us. There are security gates at the entrance to Monks Wood. Access will not be allowed after 7:30.

Next Meeting:
7th October - Tony Johnson (MRC Biostatistics Unit) on "Editing a journal - some anecdotes, tales and advice."

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telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 7th October 1997 7:15 for 7:45

Hopkinson Room,
University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory,
Pembroke Street, Cambridge

Editing a Journal - Some Anecdotes, Tales and Advice

Tony Johnson

Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit,
University of Cambridge Institute of Public Health

Abstract: Being an Editor of a Journal can be both an extremely rewarding amd a harrowing experience! This talk will recall some of the routine as well as the more exciting aspects. The processing of manuscripts from submission through several stages of evaluation and editing, setting, filming and ultimately, publication will be described. Advice about what the Editor requires in the report from a statistical referee will be illustrated and discussed.

Speaker: Tony Johnson has worked for MRC for nearly 30 years with main interests in both clinical trials and epidemiological studies in epilepsy; clinical trials in anxiety, depression and schizophrenia, and more recently in antimicrobial medicine. He has served on two International Commissions and a UK Government Advisory Panel in epilepsy as well as national and European Working Parties developing guidelines for clinical trials of antimicrobial drugs. Tony has been a co-editor of Statistics in Medicine since 1981.

Annual General Meeting: Tony's talk will be preceded by a brief Annual General Meeting.

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Next Meetings:
11th November - David Underwood (The Statwood Partnership) on 'The role of a statistical consultant in the pharmaceutical industry'.
9th December - Jim Oeppen (History of Population) on 'Estimating adult mortality from 1600 to 1850 '.
20th January - Norman Davies (Scott Polar) on 'Difficulties encountered in the analysis of Royal Navy submarine sonar data '.
17th February - Roger Sewell (Cambridge Consultants).
17th March - Clive Moncrieff (The Natural History Museum, London).

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.
Subscriptions: are now due for the 1997-8 session.
Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Applied Psychology Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;
telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk

TURN OVER for the Annual General Meeting agenda

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 7th October 1997 7:15 for 7:45

Hopkinson Room,
University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory,
Pembroke Street, Cambridge

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting will be followed immediately by Tony Johnson's talk 'Editing a journal - some anecdotes, tales and advice'.

Agenda:

0. Approval of Minutes of previous A.G.M.

1. Treasurer's Report.

2. Secretary's Report.

3. Election of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, plus 3 other members of the Committee.

4. Any Other Business.

Rules for Election:

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3. VOTING: Voting is in the order Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee, and is by show of hands.

TURN OVER for the directions to the Hopkinson Room and the abstract of Tony's talk

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 11th November 1997 7:15 for 7:45

The Statistical Laboratory,
16 Mill Lane, Cambridge

Statistical Consulting in the Pharmaceutical Industry

David Underwood ← replaced by Alun Bedding

The Statwood Partnership,
Hitchen

Abstract: The talk will reflect on 20 years of consulting experience, and examples of real life situations will be given, however names and circumstances will be changed to protect the innocent!! Examples drawn from consulting as a company statistician from within a major pharmaceutical company will be contrasted to those when acting as an external consultant. The effect of the statistical review from within the UK regulatory authorities on statistical consultants will also be discussed.

Speaker: David Underwood joined Smith Kline and French in 1978 as a statistician. Since then he has had considerable experience in the pre-clinical, clinical and post marketing areas, designing and analysing many types of studies ranging from toxicological experiments to large European multi-centre clinical trials. He has also advised on studies as diverse as trials involving single patients and large epidemiological studies based on the Third World. David was Head of Clinical Data Management Services responsible for 30 Data Management and Statistical staff when he left SmithKline Beecham in 1994 to set up the STATWOOD Partnership with John Beresford. David is a Chartered Statistician and was awarded his MSc in 1978.

Directions: The Statistical Laboratory is part of the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics which is situated on the North side of Mill Lane (right hand side starting from Trumpington Street). Use the West entrance which is reached through the car park guarded by traffic lights; proceed to the seminar room (S27) on the second floor. The outside door is locked but will be attended from 7:15 to 7:45. There is no car parking on site (the Lion Yard multi-storey is nearby).

Next Meetings:
9th December - Jim Oeppen (History of Population) on 'Estimating adult mortality from 1600 to 1850 '.
20th January - Norman Davies (Scott Polar) on 'Difficulties encountered in the analysis of Royal Navy submarine sonar data '.
17th February - Roger Sewell (Cambridge Consultants).
17th March - Clive Moncrieff (The Natural History Museum, London).
28th April - Susan Pitts (Statistical Laboratory) on 'Nonparametric estimation in insurance'.

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.
Subscriptions: of 3 pounds per member are now due for the 1997-8 session. Cheques should be made payable to Margaret Corbett and may be posted to the secretary at the address below.
Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Applied Psychology Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;
telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk

Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1995-96

The Annual General Meeting for the year 1995-96 was held at the Computer Laboratory, New Museums Site, Cambridge, on 10th October 1996. **Present:** Nick Winder(in Chair), David Andrews, Tim Cole, Margaret Corbett, Mary Garratt, Graham Healey, Mark Hill, Peter Rothery, Eryl Shirley, Diane Stockton, Helen Tate, Peter Treasure, Peter Watson. **Apologies:** Pat Altham, Anthony Edwards, Tim Sparks.
The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

Reports: The **Treasurer's** Accounts were circulated. The Group decided that she may, but is not obliged to, raise the subscription for 1997-8 to £4.

The **Secretary** presented a brief statistical analysis. He showed that the average member of the Group paid the subscription and attended three meetings per year. There are thirty or so average members.

Election of officers and committee: Peter Rothery was proposed as chair by Mary Garratt and elected unopposed. Peter Watson was proposed as secretary by Diane Stockton and elected unopposed. Margaret Corbett, Tim Sparks, Diane Stockton and Helen Tate all exercised their right to stand again (as treasurer and ordinary members of the committee respectively) and were all elected unopposed. Peter Rothery thanked the outgoing officers for their contributions.

The committee for 1996-97: *chair* Peter Rothery; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Margaret Corbett; *ex-officio* Nick Winder; *ordinary* Tim Sparks, Diane Stockton, Helen Tate.

Any Other Business: Peter Rothery told the group about Ken Lakhani's recent illness. The Group asked Peter to convey their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Treasurer's Accounts and Report 1996-97

Expenditure	1996-7	1995-6	Income	1996-7	1995-6
Secretarial expenses	£86.39	£152.32	Initial cash balance	£138.88	£200.86
Speakers' meals	£13.05	£13.52	Subscriptions (No. of people)	£93.00 (31)	£99.00 (33)
Secretary -in hand	£22.16				
Balance c/f	£115.77	£138.88	Interest	£5.49	£4.86
Totals	£237.37	£304.72		£237.37	£304.72

Treasurer's Report: We can keep the subscription at £3 each for 1997-8 but a rise to £4 or £5 is recommended for the 1998-9 session. The exact amount of this rise would depend on financial performance for the 1997-8 session.

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1996-97

The Annual General Meeting for the year 1996-97 was held at the Computer Laboratory, New Museums Site, Cambridge, on 7th October 1997. **Present:** Peter Rothery(in Chair), Dave Andrews, John Bell, Tim Cole, Margaret Corbett, Jamie Gabbay, Sheila Gore, Graham Healey, Tony Johnson, Chris Palmer, Lisa Robertson, Gordon Taylor (and wife), Peter Treasure, Peter Watson. **Apologies:** Tim Sparks, Helen Tate.
The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved. ie Jaqueline Taylor

Reports: The **Treasurer's** Accounts were circulated. She told the Group it was not necessary to raise the subscription from £3 for 1997-8. The Group decided that she may, but is not obliged to, raise the subscription for 1998-9 to either £4 or £5. Peter Rothery thanked the treasurer for another year of sterling work.

The **Secretary** presented a brief analysis of the previous session's attendance. Both median meeting attendance (16) and total number of people attending (65) were up on the previous two sessions. Peter Watson remarked on the success of the field trip to ITE in May and appealed to any other potential field trip organisers or speakers to come forward rather than wait to be asked.

Election of officers and committee: All committee members exercised their right to stand again and were re-elected unopposed.

The committee for 1997-98: *chair* Peter Rothery; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Margaret Corbett; *ex-officio* Nick Winder; *ordinary* Tim Sparks, Diane Stockton, Helen Tate.

Any Other Business: none.

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 9th December 1997 7:15 for 7:45

Dalgety Food Technology Centre,
Station Road, Cambridge

Estimating Adult Mortality from 1600 to 1850

Jim Oeppen

Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure,
Cambridge

Abstract: Historic life-time data are frequently incomplete: being both doubly censored and truncated. This talk examines how recent attempts to deal with these problems in the analysis of AIDS and birds'-nest data can also contribute to the estimation of long-run mortality trends. The new methods are used to re-examine a classic 1960s study of the British Peerage and to contrast the new estimates with those derived for the common people from Parish Registers. Some of the questions addressed are: did the nobility live longer than the rest: did women live longer than men: and did marital status affect survival?

Speaker: Like many demographers, Jim Oeppen is an ex-geographer who swapped chaps for maps. He has worked for the History of Population Research Group for 20 years and his research interests include demographic estimation from incomplete data, long run changes in mortality and fertility, and microsimulation of kinship patterns. Uniquely among historical demographers, he has never set foot in a Record Office.

Directions: The Dalgety site is on the right hand side of Station Road as you approach the railway station. The meeting is held in Block B; cars may be parked there. The outside door will be locked at 7:45.

Next Meetings:
20th January - Norman Davies (Scott Polar) on 'Difficulties encountered in the analysis of Royal Navy submarine sonar data '.
17th February - Roger Sewell (Cambridge Consultants).
17th March - Clive Moncrieff (The Natural History Museum, London).
28th April - Susan Pitts (Statistical Laboratory) on 'Nonparametric estimation in insurance'.
19th May - Graham Bentham (UEA) on 'Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and sunlight: is there a link?'.

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.
Subscriptions: of 3 pounds per member are now due for the 1997-8 session. Cheques should be made payable to Margaret Corbett and may be posted to the secretary at the address below.
Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Applied Psychology Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;
telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 20th January 1998 7:15 for 7:45

The Large Seminar Room, Institute of Public Health,
University Forvie Site, Robinson Way, Cambridge

Unforseen Difficulties in the Analysis of Submarine Data Sets (Seeing the Light through Muddy Water)

Norman Davies

Scott Polar Research Institute,
Cambridge

Abstract: This talk presents the analysis of upward looking and sidescan sonar data from Royal Navy submarines to ascertain the distribution of Arctic sea ice. These data are then compared with satellite/airbourne SAR and laser systems with a view to the development of proxy synoptic mapping techniques in the Arctic regions.

Speaker: Norman Davies has worked at the Scott Polar Research Institute for 10 years working mostly on the analysis of submarine data. He has previous experience in pharmacokinetics, modelling physiological processes in analgesic/anaesthetic distribution and addiction.

Directions: (From Central Cambridge) Turn right off Hills Road into the Addenbrooke's site then turn left at the hospital roundabout onto Robinson Way. Follow Robinson Way until you see an access road on the left signed 'Forvie Site' (but note that the sign is on your right). Turn into the access road and follow signs - first to the Institute and then to the Large Seminar Room. There is ample car parking. The front doors will be locked at 7:45.

Next Meetings:
17th February - Roger Sewell (Cambridge Consultants) on 'An inline particle size/concentration meter - Bayesian inference used to untangle highly ambiguous data'.
17th March - Clive Moncrieff (The Natural History Museum, London).
28th April - Susan Pitts (Statistical Laboratory) on 'Nonparametric estimation in insurance'.
19th May - Graham Bentham (UEA) on 'Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and sunlight: is there a link?'.

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telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 17th February 1998 7:15 for 7:45

Medical Research Council Cancer Trials Office,
5 Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge

An Inline Particle Size/Concentration Meter - Bayesian Inference used to Untangle Highly Ambiguous Data

Roger Sewell

Cambridge Consultants Ltd.

Abstract: Many optical particle counters need to restrict the depth of the counting cell in order to provide unambiguous information on particle size and avoid saturation effects, resulting in severe restriction on the volume flow rate through the cell. An alternative approach will be outlined. This uses Bayesian inference to resolve the ambiguities in intepreting the data collected from a beam passed through a large bore pipe, permitting inline measurement of particle size/concentration down to around 1 micron diameter at flow rates of upto 6 m/s.

Speaker: Roger Sewell has had a varied career. Having studied Maths as an undergraduate at Cambridge, he went on to qualify in Medicine in 1980 and is an accredited Renal Physician. He left medicine at the end of 1995 to work for Cambridge Consultants as a design engineer, working mainly in implementing signal processing algorithms for a variety of measuring instruments, demodulators, etc. while maintaining interests in cryptography, Bayesian inference, and sequence analysis using hidden Markov models.

Directions: Shaftesbury Road is off Brooklands Avenue (on the left if you approach from the railway station end). Number 5 is on the left of Shaftesbury Road; it is the house immediately before the junction with Fitzwilliam Road. There is very little on-site parking but it should be possible to park on the street. Access to the building may be difficult after 7:45.

Next Meetings:
17th March - Clive Moncrieff (The Natural History Museum, London) on 'Grouped data and composite link functions revisited - and empty sets'.
28th April - Susan Pitts (Statistical Laboratory) on 'Nonparametric estimation in insurance'.
19th May - Graham Bentham (UEA) on 'Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and sunlight: is there a link?'.

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telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 17th March 1998 7:15 for 7:45

Anglia Polytechnic University,
East Road, Cambridge

Grouped Data and Composite Link Functions Revisited - and Empty Sets

Clive Moncrieff

The Natural History Museum,
London

Abstract: Ordinal data arise in various guises. The composite link function approach of Thompson and Baker (App. Stats (1981) 30:2 125-131) provides a convenient means of fitting models to such data within the framework of GLMs. Genstat and Glim programs have been written by various authors to fit models allowing for ordinality in data. My procedures based on these techniques examine models recognising the essentially discrete nature of all data. Comparisons with models assuming a continuous nature refined some ideas about the weight of evidence in data that appear not to have been examined in other composite link function procedures.

Speaker: Clive Moncrieff studied Mathematics at Cambridge and went on to study Statistics at Edinburgh. After leaving Edinburgh he worked for about 6 years at the MRC Pneumoconiosis Unit at Llandough. He then joined the AFRC firstly at the Engineering Institute at Silsoe and then at the Institute of Food Research at Bristol. After 4 years with the AFRC he joined the Natural History Museum in 1989, where he has developed interests in areas of Phylogenetic Inference. His interests in the analysis of Grouped data and Ordinal data originated while at the Pneumoconiosis Unit but were further worked on at the Institute of Food Research.

Directions: The talk will take place in Room 311 of the Rackham Building which is on the right of Broad Street which leads off East Road. Parking for a fee of £1 is accessed from Broad Street and is located to the right of the Rackham Building. Enter the building using the entrance from the car park and turn right. Room 311 is then the second on the right. The outside door will be locked at 7:45.

Next Meetings:
28th April - Susan Pitts (Statistical Laboratory) on 'Nonparametric estimation in insurance'.
19th May - Graham Bentham (UEA) on 'Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and sunlight: is there a link?'.
6th October - Sheila Gore (MRC Biostatistics) on 'Prison drug and HIV strategies:prisons need...'.
3rd November - David Underwood (Statwood Partnership).
8th December - Peter Treasure (IPH).

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THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 28th April 1998 7:15 for 7:45

Cambridge Consultants Limited,
Science Park,
Milton Road,
Cambridge

Nonparametric Estimation in Insurance

Susan Pitts

Statistical Laboratory,
Cambridge

Abstract: This talk will be an overview of various nonparametric estimation problems in insurance mathematics, including estimation of the adjustment coefficient and estimation of the distribution of the aggregate claims.

Speaker: Susan Pitts read Maths at Cambridge, and went on to do a PGCE. She became a Maths teacher at secondary level, and taught at schools in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Tunbridge Wells. Ten years after graduation she studied for an MSc in Statistics, followed by a PhD, at Imperial College. She was then a lecturer in the Department of Statistical Science at University College London for six years, and is currently a university lecturer in the Statistical Laboratory in Cambridge.

Directions: Head north on Milton Road. Two traffic lights before the A14 turn left into the Science Park (clearly signposted). Turn left at the roundabout. Cambridge Consultants Limited is on the right approx. 200 yards. Parking is available on site. There will be no admittance after 7:45.

Next Meetings:
19th May - Graham Bentham (UEA) on 'Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and sunlight: is there a link?'.
6th October - Sheila Gore (MRC Biostatistics) on 'Prison drug and HIV strategies:prisons need...'.
3rd November - David Underwood (Statwood Partnership).
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THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 19th May 1998 7:15 for 7:45

102 Chesterton Road,
Cambridge

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and Sunlight: Is there a Link?

Graham Bentham

School of Environmental Sciences,
University of East Anglia,
Norwich

Abstract: The incidence of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is increasing rapidly and we don't know why. We do know that immune suppression increases risk and this has led to the hypothesis that greater exposure of the population to sunlight (which can cause systematic immune suppression) may have been a factor in the increase in NHL. I will be describing two of my attempts to shed light on this hypothesis. The first looks at whether the geography of NHL matches variations in solar UVB levels. The second is a piece of molecular epidemiology analysing whether UVB exposure increases the frequency of bcl-2 mutations as found in most cases of the commonest type of NHL.

Speaker: Graham Bentham is Reader in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia specialising in environmental epidemiology. He was (1991-97) Director of the Research Programme on the Health Impacts of Global Environmental Change in the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE) and is now (1998-) Director of the Centre for Environmental and Risk Management. Recent research has focused on the effects of exposure to UVB on melanoma and other diseases, the effects of ozone depletion on disease incidence and on the impacts of climate change on winter mortality and on food poisoning.

Directions: (From Central Cambridge) No 102 is situated on the right of Chesterton Road just before St Regis flats. Parking is available in Chesterton Hall Crescent which is situated on the left a few yards further down from No 102. (Please see map on reverse). There will be no admittance after 7:45.

Next Meetings:
6th October - Sheila Gore (MRC Biostatistics) on 'Prison drug and HIV strategies:prisons need...'.
3rd November - David Underwood (Statwood Partnership).
8th December - Peter Treasure (IPH).

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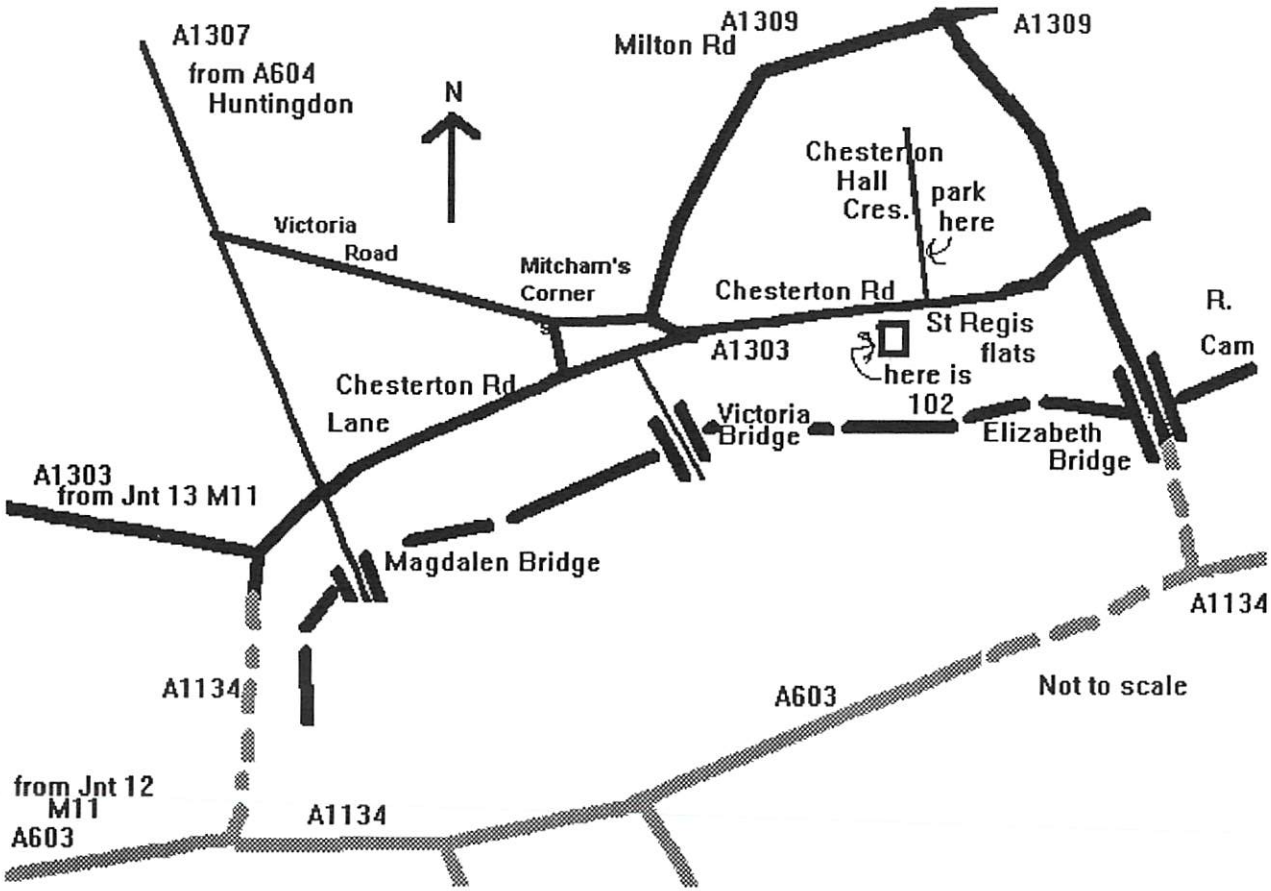
Subscriptions: of 3 pounds per member are now due for the 1997-8 session. Cheques should be made payable to Margaret Corbett and may be posted to the secretary at the address below.
Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF; telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-apu.cam.ac.uk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